

House Study Bill 144 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON FORRISTALL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the use of a high school proficiency
2 examination as a condition of graduation and for payment
3 of school foundation aid funding to community colleges and
4 regents universities on behalf of certain students who pass
5 the examination.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, Code 2011, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 31. Adopt rules requiring school districts
4 to administer to secondary students at least annually,
5 beginning not later than the 2014-2015 school year, the
6 statewide high school proficiency examination developed and
7 distributed pursuant to section 256.9, subsection 62. The
8 rules shall provide for alternative pathways to graduation and
9 for a timeline for the administration of the examination, and
10 shall require school districts to administer the examination
11 to secondary school students, including students attending
12 accredited nonpublic schools located within the school district
13 and students receiving competent private instruction pursuant
14 to chapter 299A, if a student and the student's parent or
15 guardian submit a written request to the school district.

16 Sec. 2. Section 256.9, Code 2011, is amended by adding the
17 following new subsection:

18 NEW SUBSECTION. 62. a. Develop, together with the
19 state board of regents, a statewide high school proficiency
20 examination designed to measure cumulative high school
21 achievement in the attainment of knowledge and skills specified
22 in the state's core curriculum content standards. The
23 examination shall be designed to be utilized for the following
24 purposes:

25 (1) By school districts, which shall administer the
26 examination to secondary school students who must pass the
27 examination as a condition of graduation except as provided in
28 paragraph "b".

29 (2) By a student enrolled in a school district in order
30 to graduate from high school, qualify for admission to an
31 institution of higher learning governed by the state board of
32 regents, or to qualify for state school foundation aid pursuant
33 to section 257.52.

34 (3) By students attending accredited nonpublic schools or
35 students receiving competent private instruction under chapter

1 299A in order to qualify for admission to an institution of
2 higher learning governed by the state board of regents or to
3 qualify for state school foundation aid pursuant to section
4 257.52.

5 (4) By institutions of higher learning governed by the
6 state board of regents as an entrance examination for students
7 who qualify for weighting under section 257.6, subsection 1,
8 paragraph "a", subparagraph (02).

9 b. Develop alternative assessment measures, which school
10 districts may administer to certain students in lieu of the
11 statewide high school proficiency examination. The alternative
12 assessment measures shall be designed to measure high school
13 competency in the attainment of the knowledge and skills
14 specified in the state's core curriculum content standards
15 of students with special needs, including but not limited to
16 students with disabilities, English language learners, and
17 general education students who can demonstrate mastery of the
18 state's core curriculum content standards using an alternative
19 assessment measure.

20 Sec. 3. Section 257.6, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code 2011,
21 is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

22 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (02) Full-time equivalent resident
23 pupils who pass the statewide high school proficiency
24 examination developed and distributed pursuant to section
25 256.9, subsection 62, prior to the pupil's senior year of high
26 school if the pupil is admitted to an Iowa community college
27 or institution of higher learning governed by the state board
28 of regents. A pupil who is admitted to an Iowa community
29 college or institution of higher learning governed by the
30 state board of regents shall not be included in the district's
31 enrollment for purposes of this chapter if the pupil was
32 eligible to receive a diploma with the class in which they were
33 enrolled prior to taking the statewide high school proficiency
34 examination and that class graduated the previous school year.

35 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 257.52 High school scholarship

1 **payments.**

2 1. Each community college and each institution of higher
3 learning governed by the state board of regents that admits a
4 person who prior to the person's senior year of high school
5 successfully passed the statewide high school proficiency
6 examination administered pursuant to section 256.9, subsection
7 62, shall, if the person is enrolled in a school district and
8 included in a school district's actual enrollment in accordance
9 with section 257.6, notify the department of management of the
10 admission and the name of the school district in which the
11 student is enrolled.

12 2. The department of management shall deduct from the
13 amounts calculated for state school foundation aid for each
14 school district the amount generated by each pupil pursuant to
15 section 257.6, subsection 1, paragraph "a", subparagraph (02)
16 for each school district from the state aid due to the district
17 pursuant to this chapter and shall pay the amounts to the Iowa
18 community college or institution of higher learning governed
19 by the state board of regents in which the person is admitted
20 pursuant to subsection 1 on a monthly basis from September
21 15 through June 15 during each school year. The community
22 college or institution paid pursuant to this subsection shall
23 reduce the tuition charged to a person admitted as a student
24 pursuant to subsection 1 by an amount equivalent to the amount
25 paid to the community college or institution pursuant to this
26 subsection. The department of management shall notify each
27 school district of the amount of state aid deducted for these
28 purposes and the balance of state aid shall be paid to the
29 district.

30 Sec. 5. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
31 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
32 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
33 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
34 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
35 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed

1 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
2 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
3 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
4 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
5 districts.

6

EXPLANATION

7 This bill requires the department of education to develop
8 and distribute, and requires school districts to administer,
9 a high school proficiency examination to measure cumulative
10 student competency in the attainment of the knowledge and
11 skills specified in the state's core curriculum content
12 standards as a condition of graduation. The bill also provides
13 for the payment of state school foundation aid funding to a
14 community college or regents university for the postsecondary
15 tuition costs of a high school student who passes the
16 examination prior to the student's senior year of high school.

17 The state board of education is directed to adopt rules
18 requiring school districts to administer the examination at
19 least annually, beginning not later than the 2014-2015 school
20 year, to secondary students, including those attending an
21 accredited nonpublic school and receiving competent private
22 instruction if the student and the student's parent or guardian
23 submit a written request to the school district. The rules
24 shall provide for a timeline for the administration of the
25 examination and alternative measurements for students with
26 special needs, English language learners, and general education
27 students who can demonstrate mastery using alternative
28 measures.

29 To qualify for state school foundation aid for purposes of
30 paying tuition at a community college or regents university,
31 a student shall be enrolled in the student's school district
32 of residence on or before October 1 of the school year prior
33 to the year in which the student will attend an Iowa community
34 college or regents university.

35 The examination shall qualify as an entrance examination for

1 admission to regents universities for students who qualify for
2 state school foundation aid by passing the examination prior to
3 their senior year.

4 Full-time equivalent resident pupils who pass the statewide
5 high school proficiency examination prior to the pupil's senior
6 year of high school are included in the school district's
7 actual enrollment and assigned a weighting of one if the
8 pupil is admitted to an Iowa community college or regents
9 university. However, the pupil is ineligible to be included in
10 the district's enrollment if the pupil was eligible to receive
11 a diploma with the class in which they were enrolled prior to
12 taking the examination and that class graduated the previous
13 school year.

14 Each community college and regents university that admits
15 a person who prior to the student's senior year of high
16 school successfully passed the examination shall, if the
17 person is enrolled in a school district and included in a
18 school district's actual enrollment, notify the department of
19 management of the admission and the name of the school district
20 in which the student is enrolled. The department of management
21 shall deduct from the amounts calculated for state school
22 foundation aid for each school district the amount generated
23 by such pupil for each school district from the state aid due
24 to the district and shall pay the amounts to the community
25 college or regents university in which the pupil is admitted.
26 The community college or regents university shall reduce the
27 tuition charged to such a student by an amount equivalent to
28 the amount paid to the community college or university.

29 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
30 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
31 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
32 district from state school foundation aid received by the
33 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
34 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
35 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The

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1 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
2 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
3 mandates included in the bill.